

News

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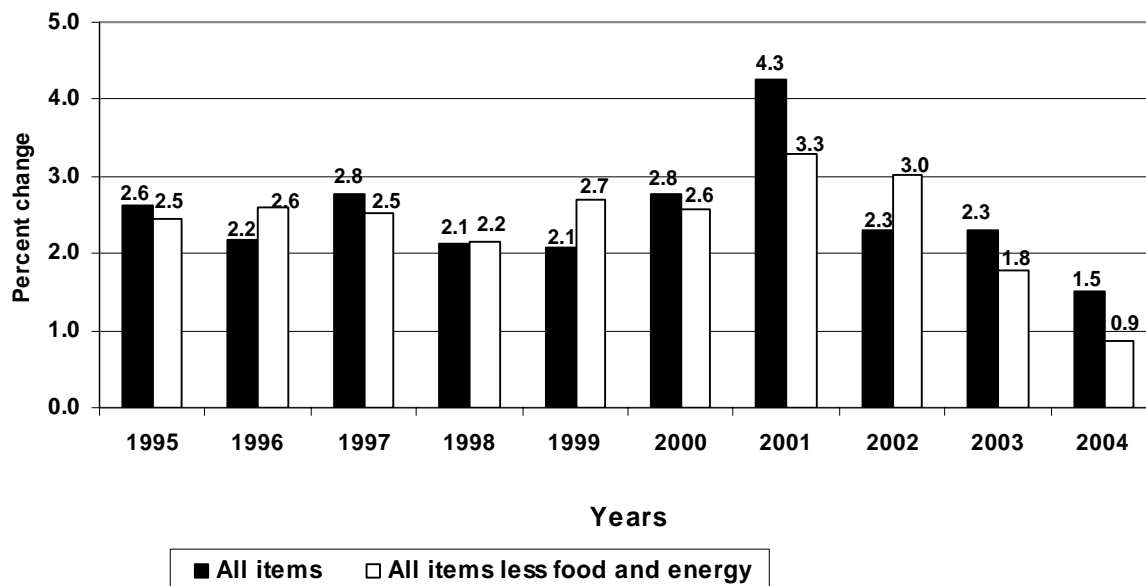
FOR RELEASE:

Friday, February 20, 2004

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – JANUARY 2004

Overall prices rose 0.6 percent for consumers in the thirteen westernmost states in January, following a 0.1 percent decline in December. Acting Regional Commissioner Nancy Treadwell said changes in the shelter and transportation indexes were leading contributors to the increase in overall prices this month. During the past 12 months, the all items index rose 1.5 percent, while the all items less food and energy index advanced 0.9 percent. Regional area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

**West Region, CPI-U Annual Percent Change
January 1995 to January 2004**



The largest major expenditure category, housing, rose 0.7 percent in January. The twelve-month change registered 1.1 percent. Shelter, the main component of housing, rose 1.4 percent for the twelve months ending January 2004. The fuels and utilities portion of housing rose 1.4 percent for the same period, and household furnishings and operations dropped 2.0 percent.

The transportation index jumped 1.3 percent over the month, yet was up only 0.3 percent over twelve months. For the past two years, increases in motor fuel index have been largely offset by decreases in the index for new and used motor vehicles. Gasoline increased 3.0 percent for the month and 8.8 percent for the year. New and used motor vehicles, on the other hand, increased 0.1 percent for the month and declined 4.9 percent for the year.

The medical care index increased 0.6 percent during the past month. Within this expenditure category, medical care commodities prices remained flat for the same time period, while medical care services rose 0.8 percent. The overall basket of goods for medical care has risen 3.8 percent since January 2003.

Apparel, which comprises approximately four percent of the consumer basket of goods, declined 1.0 percent for the month. For the past year, apparel price tags were lower by 2.3 percent.

Recreation prices increased 0.5 percent over the month and measured 1.4 percent above the level of January 2003.

Food and beverage prices increased 0.1 percent for the month. Grocery prices, as defined by the food at home index, dropped 0.2 percent for the same period. Total food and beverage prices advanced 3.8 percent over the year, more than twice the rate of increase for the all items index.

The education and communication index showed no change for any of the three months since October 2003. In the past 12 months, education and communication prices increased 2.7 percent.

Prices for other goods and services increased 0.7 percent in January, and advanced 2.6 percent for the past 12 months.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stands at 189.4 (1982-84=100) for January. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$189.40 in January 2004.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003
Expenditure category						
All items	188.5	188.3	189.4	1.5	0.5	0.6
All items (December 1977=100)	304.6	304.4	306.2	-	-	-
Food and beverages	189.2	190.6	190.8	3.8	0.8	0.1
Food	188.5	190.0	190.1	3.9	0.8	0.1
Food at home	194.3	196.6	196.3	4.9	1.0	-0.2
Food away from home	180.3	180.7	181.3	2.5	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	196.2	196.7	197.7	2.1	0.8	0.5
Housing	194.9	195.2	196.5	1.1	0.8	0.7
Shelter	218.4	218.6	219.9	1.4	0.7	0.6
Rent of primary residence ²	215.0	215.7	216.4	2.6	0.7	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	230.9	231.2	231.2	1.4	0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities	172.2	173.7	175.3	1.4	1.8	0.9
Fuels	160.1	161.5	163.4	0.4	2.1	1.2
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	163.3	164.7	166.7	0.2	2.1	1.2
Electricity ²	173.1	173.4	173.0	-5.8	-0.1	-0.2
Utility natural gas service ²	159.4	163.6	170.3	16.2	6.8	4.1
Household furnishings and operations	128.1	128.0	129.2	-2.0	0.9	0.9
Apparel	112.2	107.8	106.7	-2.3	-4.9	-1.0
Transportation	157.4	156.4	158.4	0.3	0.6	1.3
Private transportation	152.2	151.2	153.4	0.3	0.8	1.5
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	94.0	94.0	94.1	-4.9	0.1	0.1
New vehicles	134.9	136.3	136.4	-2.4	1.1	0.1
New cars and trucks ^{4 5}	93.9	94.8	94.9	-2.5	1.1	0.1
New cars ⁵	132.2	133.7	133.9	-2.1	1.3	0.1
Used cars and trucks	130.3	129.2	129.0	-12.0	-1.0	-0.2
Motor fuel	135.7	131.8	135.8	8.7	0.1	3.0
Gasoline (all types)	135.3	131.3	135.3	8.8	0.0	3.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	133.1	128.9	133.2	9.4	0.1	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	129.3	126.1	129.5	6.8	0.2	2.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	134.0	130.6	134.1	7.8	0.1	2.7
Medical care	299.5	301.7	303.4	3.8	1.3	0.6
Medical care commodities	264.5	268.5	268.4	1.6	1.5	0.0
Medical care services	308.9	310.5	312.9	4.4	1.3	0.8
Professional services ²	247.0	248.6	249.5	3.3	1.0	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003
Expenditure category						
Recreation ⁴	105.9	105.8	106.3	1.4	0.4	0.5
Education and communication ⁴	110.2	110.2	110.2	2.7	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services	300.7	300.2	302.3	2.6	0.5	0.7
Commodity and service group						
All items	188.5	188.3	189.4	1.5	0.5	0.6
Commodities	151.4	150.9	151.4	0.6	0.0	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	130.4	129.0	129.7	-1.4	-0.5	0.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	144.6	141.7	142.7	1.3	-1.3	0.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	168.6	166.8	169.1	2.9	0.3	1.4
Durables	115.4	115.6	115.9	-4.6	0.4	0.3
Services	221.9	222.1	223.7	2.1	0.8	0.7
Rent of shelter ³	232.0	232.2	233.6	1.5	0.7	0.6
Transportation services	217.4	216.2	220.3	2.1	1.3	1.9
Other services	252.2	252.3	253.7	4.1	0.6	0.6
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	182.9	182.6	183.7	1.4	0.4	0.6
All items less food	188.6	188.2	189.4	1.1	0.4	0.6
All items less shelter	177.4	177.1	178.1	1.6	0.4	0.6
Commodities less food	133.1	131.8	132.4	-1.3	-0.5	0.5
Nondurables	167.3	166.4	167.0	2.6	-0.2	0.4
Nondurables less food	148.2	145.6	146.5	1.4	-1.1	0.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	170.6	169.1	171.2	2.8	0.4	1.2
Services less rent of shelter ³	233.4	233.6	235.8	3.0	1.0	0.9
Services less medical care services	215.0	215.1	216.7	2.0	0.8	0.7
Energy	147.0	145.2	148.5	4.7	1.0	2.3
All items less energy	193.6	193.6	194.5	1.3	0.5	0.5
All items less food and energy	195.1	194.8	195.9	0.9	0.4	0.6
Commodities less food and energy commodities	136.2	135.3	135.4	-2.7	-0.6	0.1
Energy commodities	137.4	133.5	137.6	8.8	0.1	3.1
Services less energy services	226.2	226.3	227.9	2.2	0.8	0.7

¹ West includes - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

² This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁵ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.